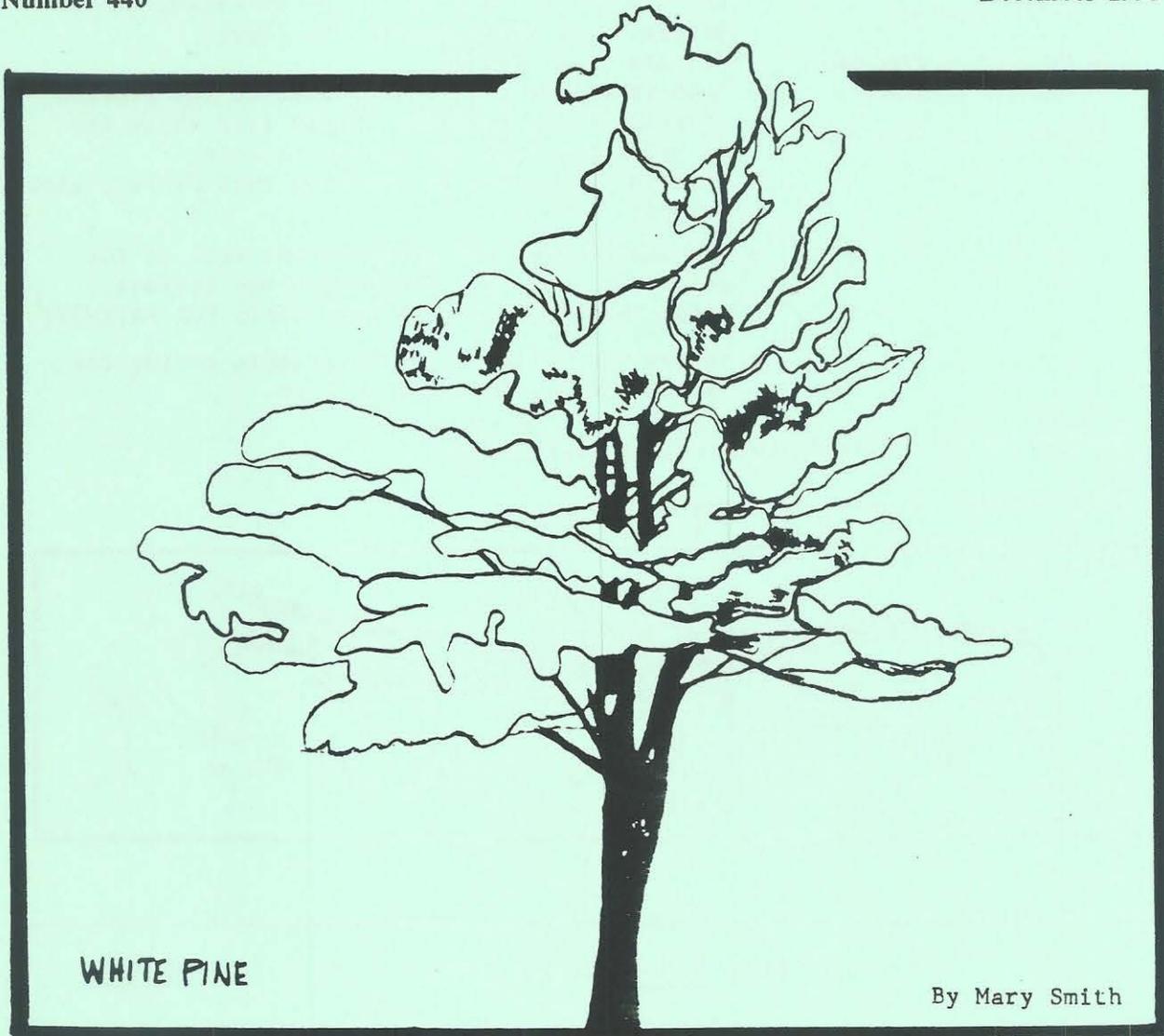


# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 440

December 1993



WHITE PINE

By Mary Smith

## Inside

Algonquin Park 18-19  
Amphibians & reptiles 2,8,10  
Birds 7,10,13,18-19,20,22  
Coming events 28-29  
Fishes 10,18-19  
Invertebrates 10,18  
Mammals 10,13,18-19,27  
Mushrooms 4  
Issues 21-22,23,24,25

Plants 6,9,12,17,19,20  
Projects 12-17,20,22,23  
Reading 11,17  
Trees & shrubs 1,8,15  
TFN-meetings 2  
newsletter submissions 2  
outings 3-6,9  
Past President's death 8  
President's report 7  
Weather 24,26-27

## TFN MEETINGS

Sunday, December 5, 1993 - POLLINATION AND POLLINATORS

at 2:30 pm

in the Northrop Frye Hall  
Victoria University

73 Queen's Park Cres. East

an illustrated talk by Dr. Peter Kevin,  
professor of Environmental Biology,  
University of Guelph

- Both in nature and in agriculture, the process of pollination is under threat from those who do not appreciate the important role invertebrates play in ensuring that fruits, etc. develop.

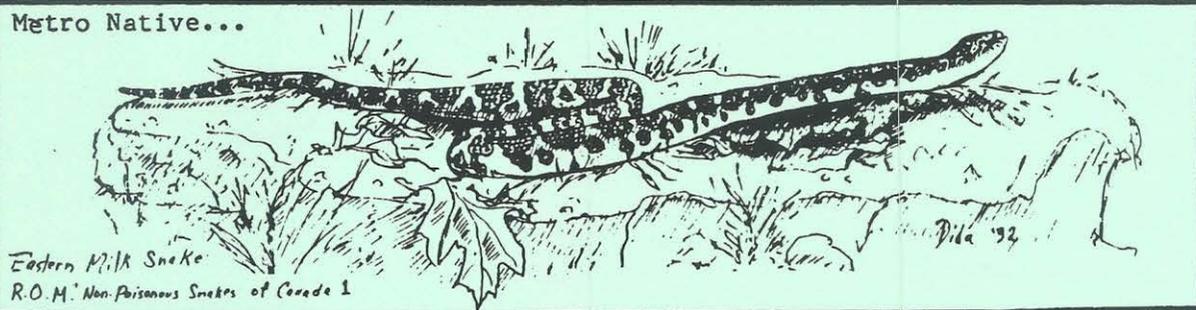
+ TFN memberships and publications will be for sale from 2 pm to 4 pm outside the lecture room. MEMBERSHIPS MAKE FINE GIFTS FOR FRIENDS!

+ coffee and juice will be available during the "social hour", starting at 2 pm.

NO MEETING IN JANUARY! (or January newsletter)

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, February 6, 1994

Metro Native...



### IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Requested: essays (no longer than 500 words), reviews (no longer than 300 words), poems, cartoons, sketches and newspaper clippings.

Subjects: plants, animals and natural areas in the Toronto region, especially reports of personal experiences with wildlife.

Please include your name, address and telephone number so submissions can be acknowledged. With newspaper clippings, include source and date of each clipping.

Time dated material such as notices of meetings should be submitted at least six weeks before the month in which the event is to take place.

Send material to:

Toronto Field Naturalists  
20 College St., Unit 11  
Toronto, Ont. M5G 1K2

## December TFN OUTINGS

TFN OUTINGS GO WHATEVER THE WEATHER, RAIN OR SHINE!  
TO CHECK THE WEATHER, CALL 676-3066.

Thursday FORKS OF THE DON - nature walk Don, East York  
Dec. 2 Leader: Carol Miller  
1 pm Meet at the corner of Overlea Blvd. and Thorncliffe Pk. Dr.  
(at the PetroCan gas station on the southwest corner).  
From this area one can explore many parts of the Don Valley as well as  
enjoy views, wintering birds at feeders and the look of a mature forest.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING PETS ON OUTINGS! Dogs have been found to  
interfere with the environment, viewing and safety on the trail.

Saturday ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO - nature arts Toronto  
Dec. 4 Leader: Leslie Mirylees  
11 am Meet at the gallery entrance on Dundas St. West, just east  
of Beverley St. Lunch optional.  
\$ entry Bring sketching materials and stool or just come and enjoy the galleries.  
\$ fee After a brief introduction, members usually do some sketching, then compare  
work over lunch.

TAKE NOTES, PHOTOGRAPHS, OR MAKE SKETCHES AND COLLECT LITTER  
(bring a plastic bag on all outings), BUT PLEASE DO NOT  
COLLECT SPECIMENS.

Sunday TFN MEETING (see page 2 for details)  
Dec. 5 73 Queen's Park Cres. East  
2:30 pm Northrop Frye Hall

BUY YOURSELF A GOOD MAP OF METRO TORONTO (MapArt is recommended) AND GET  
A FREE TTC RIDE GUIDE FROM ANY SUBWAY STATION.

Wednesday BELTLINE - nature walk Toronto  
Dec. 8 Leader: Nancy Fredenburg  
1 pm Meet at the Eglinton West subway station.  
This is a level walk along an abandoned railway line, now a walking trail,  
and one of Toronto's newest parks. Many backyards with bird feeders along  
the trail make this an interesting walk for naturalists.

DRESS PROPERLY FOR OUTINGS -- LAYERS OF CLOTHING ARE USEFUL.

Sunday HIGH PARK - children & nature Toronto  
Dec. 12 Leader: Tracy Butler  
2 pm Meet at the park entrance on Bloor St. West opposite High Pk.  
Ave.  
This outing is designed specifically for families with children from ages  
4 to 12 and will only last for one or 1½ hours.

BRING A FRIEND OR THE FAMILY ON A TFN WALK. VISITORS AND  
CHILDREN ARE WELCOME ON ALL TFN OUTINGS.

▷

DECEMBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

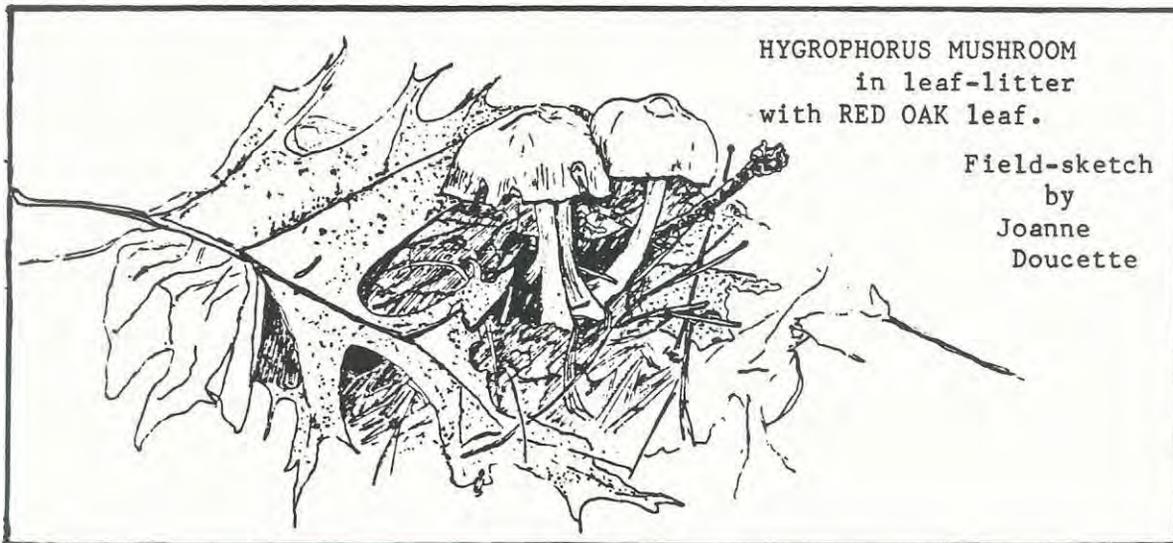
Thursday      ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE - nature & art                      West Don, North York  
Dec. 16      Leader: Mary Taylor  
10:30 am      Meet at the entrance on Don Mills Rd. just south of Eglinton  
entrance      Ave. East. Lunch optional.  
\$ fee          If the weather is good, we may have a walk in the valley adjacent to the  
Centre; if the weather is poor, we will visit the Centre. Bring cameras,  
sketching materials and a stool, and plan to meet other participants at lunch.

Saturday      WARDEN WOODS - winter weeds                      Taylor Creek, Scarborough  
Dec. 18      Leader: Joanne Doucette  
1 pm          Meet at the Warden subway station on Warden Ave. just south  
of St. Clair Ave. East.  
This is a good time and place to look at plants in winter -- which stay green  
and what the dried standing plants are.

Wednesday    G. ROSS LORD PARK - nature walk                      West Don, North York  
Dec. 22      Leader: Sandy Cappell  
10 am        Meet at the southeast corner of Steeles Ave. West and Dufferin  
St. Morning only.  
This is a very large park with lots of asphalt trails as well as wild places  
to walk on footpaths, and a small lake created by a dam. Winter is a great  
time to enjoy the landscape.

Thursday      COL. DANFORTH PK. - birds                      Highland Creek, Scarborough  
Dec. 30      Leader: Karin Fawthrop  
10:30 am      Meet at the park entrance on Col. Danforth Trail on the south  
side of Kingston Rd. Morning only.  
This very wild deep valley is a great place for birds to hide and feed during  
the cold, windy winter months. A recently built asphalt trail will be  
explored.

▷



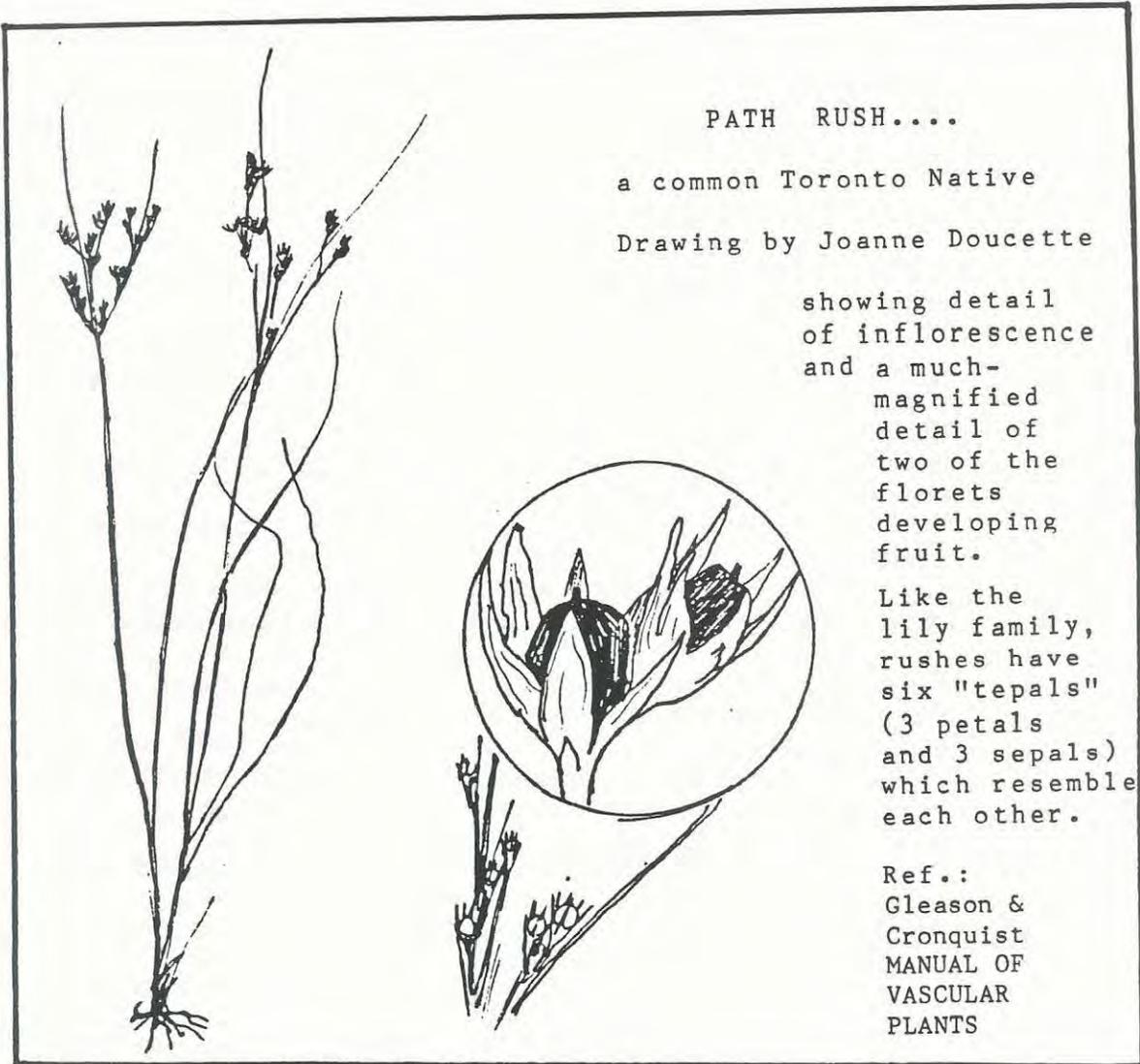
## January

- Sunday  
Jan. 2  
2 pm
- SIMCOE'S DON - human & natural history Don, East York/Toronto  
Leaders: Aarne & Helen Juhola  
Meet on the west side of Broadview Ave. at Pottery Rd.  
(opposite Mortimer Ave.)  
Two hundred years after the Simcoe's spent their first winter in York, we will contemplate some of the changes in the Don Valley and our region.
- Wednesday  
Jan. 5  
10 am
- MIMICO CREEK - nature walk Mimico Creek, Etobicoke  
Leader: Ruth Munson  
Meet at the northwest corner of Eglinton Ave. West and Willowridge Rd. (west of Martin Grove Rd.)  
Mimico Creek is one of our most urbanized watersheds in Metro. We will be looking for remnant natural areas near one of the largest cloverleaves of roads in Canada (an area known as spaghetti junction).
- Saturday  
Jan. 8  
10:30 am
- ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM - nature & art Toronto  
Leader: Betty Paul  
Meet at the museum entrance on the west side of Queen's Park Cres. south of Bloor St. West.  
Bring sketching materials and stool or just come and enjoy a visit to this important museum. Members usually meet for lunch to discuss what they have drawn or observed.
- Thursday  
Jan. 13  
10:30 am
- CENTENNIAL GREENHOUSES - exotic nature Etobicoke  
Leader: Ann Millett  
Meet at the corner of Rathburn Rd. and Elmcrest Rd. (west of Hwy. 427).  
Bring camera, sketching material and stool or just come and enjoy. If the weather is suitable some members may want to walk in the park which borders Etobicoke Creek.
- Saturday  
Jan. 15  
1 pm
- MORNINGSIDE PARK - animal tracks & signs Highland Creek, Scarborough  
Leader: Joanne Doucette  
Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Morningside Ave. (north of Lawrence Ave. East).  
This very large park contains a variety of habitats -- river edge, woodlots, meadows, wetlands -- so lots of opportunity to observe many kinds of animals.
- Thursday  
Jan. 20  
9 am
- FORKS OF THE HUMBER - birds West Humber, Etobicoke  
Leader: Joan O'Donnell  
Meet on the west side of Albion Rd. at Barker Ave. Morning only.  
We will be visiting Joan's bird feeder which has been in operation for many years and often attracts great numbers of birds.
- Saturday  
Jan. 22  
11 am
- RAINBOW CREEK - nature walk Humber, Vaughan  
Leader: Robin Powell  
Meet at the northwest corner of Steeles Ave. West and Islington Ave. Bring lunch and a warm drink.  
Toronto's greenbelt is actually a corridor for hydro and gas lines and highways. The result is that remnant natural areas -- even ones of outstanding beauty and interest are being destroyed. Visit this one before it is gone.

JANUARY OUTINGS (cont'd)

Tuesday WINDFIELD PARK - nature walk Wilket Creek, North York  
Jan. 25 Leader: Eileen Mayo  
1 pm Meet at the park entrance on the south side of York Mills Rd.  
just east of Bayview Ave.  
Because this valley has a variety of habitats -- stream, mown and unmown  
meadows and a woodlot -- a variety of birds are usually observed here during  
the winter.

Saturday CENTENNIAL PARK - nature walk Etobicoke Creek, Etobicoke  
Jan. 29 Leader: Alfred Adamo  
1 pm Meet at the west end of Rathburn Rd. (west of Hwy. 427).  
The park and the valley contain many opportunities for wildlife viewing  
-- shale walls of the valley contain fossils; woodlots and meadows, habitat  
for wildlife; an interesting collection of trees. □



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here are some thoughts for the approaching festive season. Our newsletter describes many projects that various groups are undertaking. You may wish to donate to one of these worthy causes or get involved. You could peruse the book reports for suggestions for books to read or to give as gifts. Among the news items, there are often issues that motivate you to write a letter -- to commend or disapprove.

We are very pleased that six people offered to help with publicity. You might resolve to aid the TFN in some way in 1994; for example, more than 50 volunteers are needed each year for our nature information centre in Sunnybrook Park. More "key" people are needed to be present two to three times during the five months the cabin is open. Perhaps you could lead or assist with outings? Messages can be left at the TFN office (968-6255).

During this hectic season I hope you can take time to enjoy nature.

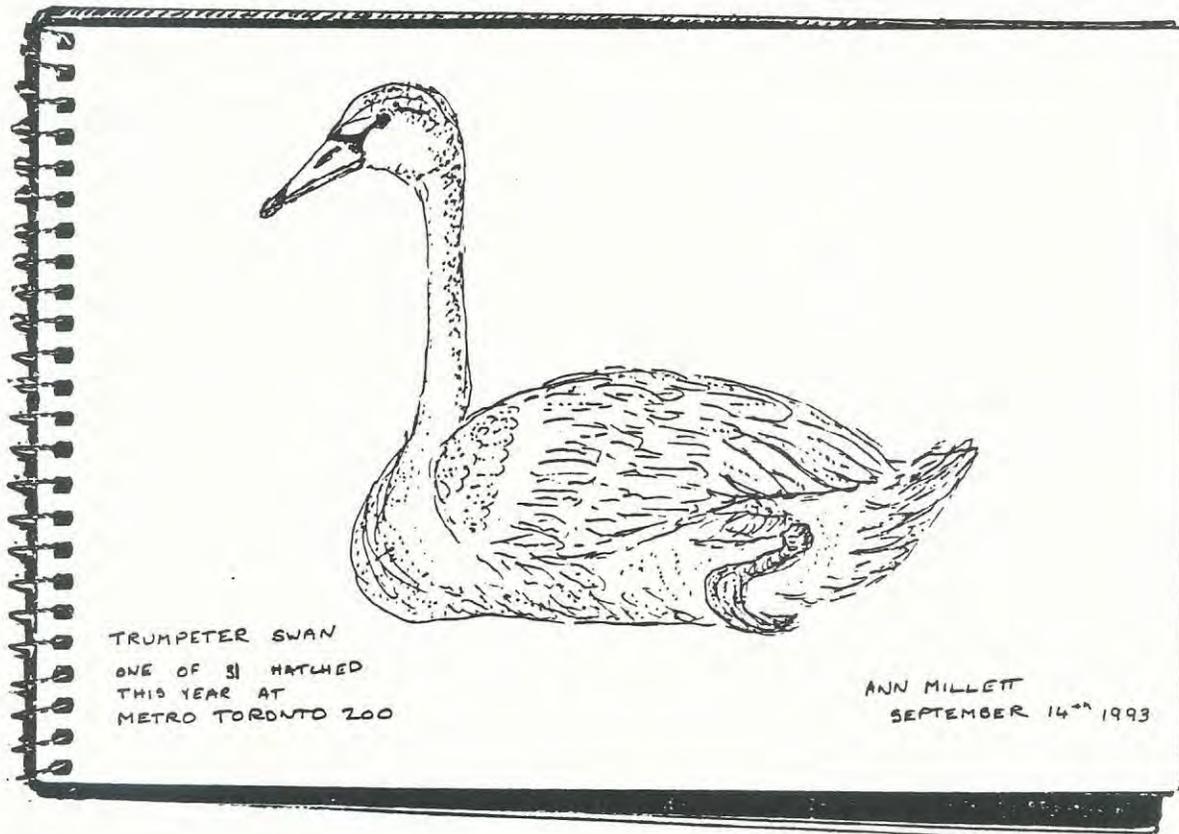
Happy Holidays!

Joan O'Donnell

□

In winter-drab woods,  
spring's green promise upholding,  
leaves of celandine.

Haiku by Arthur Wade



TRUMPETER SWAN  
ONE OF 31 HATCHED  
THIS YEAR AT  
METRO TORONTO ZOO

ANN MILLETT  
SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> 1993

## MARY COLLISHAW SMITH

"Heritage Trees" was a new concept for us at TFN when Mary Smith joined in 1976 and introduced us to the idea of "natural heritage" which goes along with built heritage. Mary, who was TFN president from 1982 to 1984, died on October 19, 1993. She graduated as a landscape architect from the University of Toronto in 1971, after raising her family. A passionate naturalist and gardener who had been active with the Shade Tree Council of Ontario and the Conservation Council of Ontario, she introduced us to many professionals in forestry, government, planning and other vital areas. As well as serving as an "expert witness" at Ontario Municipal Board hearings, Mary wrote many articles for our newsletter, mostly on trees. She organized two studies resulting in the publication of: SCENIC ROADS, A CASE STUDY IN THE TOWN OF VAUGHAN, 1978 and AN INVENTORY OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF EAST YORK (OUTSIDE OF PARKS), 1984. For the Ontario Shade Tree Council, she had produced the illustrated publication: TREE LEAVES. For a number of years she served as TFN representative on the City of Toronto's "Committee on Ravine Preservation Policies". Here she was involved with the publication of two pamphlets about the city's ravines and their care. Her "heritage tree" outings were memorable and, always with characteristic good humour, she led a number of work parties to the TFN nature reserve. Mary's generous donation of slides to the club's photograph library continues to benefit our publicity program and illustrated talks. The cover of our November newsletter was one of her tree silhouettes, the Eastern Cottonwood. This issue features her White Pine. Her ashes are scattered, at her request, among the oaks of Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Diana Banville & Helen Juhola

□



THE WHITE ASH is a native Toronto tree. It has compound leaves, usually with seven leaflets. The twigs and leaves are opposite. The male and female flowers grow on separate trees as a rule but "perfect" flowers may also occur with both sexes in one floret, according to THE FOREST TREES OF ONTARIO (White/Hosie).

(Silhouette  
by Mary Smith)

## OUTINGS REPORT

The TFN conducts about 150 guided nature walks a year in and near Metro Toronto, TTC-accessible, during all four seasons, rain or shine, weekdays and weekends and summer evenings; they are probably the Club's most popular activity. Many of our walk leaders, who are all volunteers, have great, sometimes seemingly encyclopedic, knowledge of the theme of the walk and of nature in general.

On the other hand, many other leaders are ordinary rank-and-file TFN members. What they do know that the experts don't is an interesting new place for a walk and a convenient route through it -- and this is what the TFN Outings Committee needs of a walk leader!

If you'd like to lead a walk, either an existing one or a new one proposed by yourself, discuss it with the Outings Committee. If you have a walk, but don't want to lead yourself, we will assign a leader and you can quietly assist as a discreet adviser who knows the path.

Leaders usually "prewalk" their outings to choose the most appropriate route, which, in the winter, for example, may include an attempt to end the walk near a donut shop or similar warm place. There are other considerations, such as avoiding poison ivy and taking care not to trample delicate plants underfoot. If you need help with the prewalk, we will send one or two experienced people to go with you.

▷ For more information, call the TFN Outings Committee at 968-6255 or call me.



JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE  
SEPT 26/87

Alexander (Sandy) Cappell  
663-7738

□

### JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE or CANADA POTATO

Geographically inappropriate, "Jerusalem" in the name is an apparent corruption of "girosol" or "girosole" meaning "sunflower" (Spanish and Italian words respectively); however, the "artichoke" part is warranted because of the taste of the tubers which resembles that of the edible part (the bract bases) of the globe artichoke of the same (composite) family.

"Canada Potato", a lesser known name, is appropriate geographically since the species is thought to have originated in the central portion of North America; however, it is in a different family from that of the potato to which it is similar in texture but less so in taste. You may find these tubers on vegetable-stands as "sunchokes".

Field sketch by Joyce Cave - note the alternate leaves at the top of the plant.

Ref.: WILD HARVEST by Alyson Hart Knap and manuals in TFN Library.

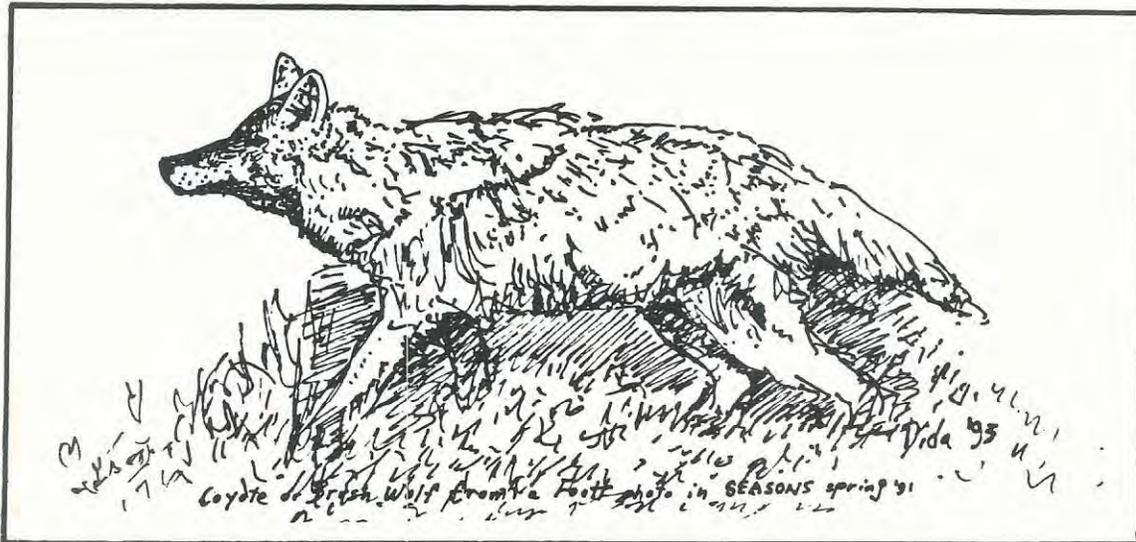
## TORONTO REGION WILDLIFE LIST

So far this year, reports on birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fishes and invertebrates have been received from 45 TFN members. Most of these reports have lent themselves to filing by location. For example, outings to locations in the Humber watershed were listed on a separate sheet or checklist from those to High Park. Our TFN files are now set up according to location to facilitate studies undertaken by those working on articles or government reports on environmentally sensitive areas. (Reports with more than one watershed on one sheet are filed under "Metro" or "Toronto Region".) Where we have considerable material for one park, a separate file is allocated. If you visit one area regularly, try listing such outings on a report separate from those to other areas, if you have not already done so.

There are only seven "regular" BIRDS which have not yet been reported at time of writing, but fall reports not yet received will no doubt include some of these. Of the MAMMALS, the best reported order was that of the carnivores with eight of the nine natives reported! (Missing is the least weasel which has not been reported for six years to TFN.) Some of the orders have been under-reported. (No bats? No rats?) Of the rabbit order, no reports of hares were received. Five species of FISHES were reported. Thirteen members reported on INVERTEBRATES. According to reports, many butterfly species were scarce in late summer. At times, the sulphurs, whites and monarchs had the field to themselves, though we are expecting to hear more on the satyrs. Eleven members have mentioned nine species of AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES in their reports. If you have any further reports on this group, please send them to Bob Johnson at Metro Zoo, P.O. Box 280, West Hill, Ontario M1E 4R5 (phone 392-5900, evenings 839-7139). Send other wildlife reports to Diana Banville, 710 - 7 Crescent Place, Toronto M4C 5L7. Thank you, reporters!

DB

□



## FOR READING

### RECENTLY PUBLISHED:

**Invasive Plants of Natural Habitats in Canada**, published in 1993 in cooperation with the Canadian Museum of Nature. Available from Habitat Conservation Branch, CWS, Environment Canada, Ottawa K1A 0H3 or the Secretary of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, Suite 200, 1750 Courtwood Cres., Ottawa K2C 2B5.

The book is a useful addition to the literature on Canadian plant distribution, and contains descriptions of the plants and their biology, summaries of legislation on weeds and methods of control, and references.

**Size and Integrity Standards for Natural Heritage Areas in Ontario** by S.F. Poser, W.J. Crins, and T.J. Beechey (eds.) 1993.

This report is based on proceedings of a seminar. It emphasizes the need to monitor numbers or density before taking any actions aimed at improving habitats, so as to be able to evaluate them.

extracted from the **BLUE BILL**, Vol. 40, No. 3, Sept. 1993 (Kingston Field Naturalists)

**More Naturalists and their Work in Southern Ontario** by William W. Judd, a follow-up of an earlier work **Early Naturalists and Natural History Societies of London, Ontario**. Available from W.W. Judd, 50 Hunt Club Dr., London, Ont. N6H 3Y3 or call 519-471-6892. Cost \$10.

from the **WOOD DUCK**, Vol. 47, No. 2, Oct. 1993 (Hamilton Field Naturalists' Club)

**Natural Heritage system for the Oak Ridges Moraine Area, GTA Portion**, prepared by Geomatics International Ltd. Price \$10.

**Landform Conservation in the Oak Ridges Moraine**, prepared by Johnson Sustronk Weinstein and Assoc. Price \$10.

Both of the above are background studies for the Oak Ridges Moraine Technical Working Committee and may be obtained from MTRCA, Office Services, 5 Shoreham Dr., Downsview, Ont. M3N 1S4 or by calling 416-661-6600, ext. 272.

**Fern Checklist for Owen Sound, Ontario** prepared by Nelson Maher. These illustrated lists may be obtained for free at TFN monthly meetings.

**Fern Prints** by Nelson Maher. Complete life-size prints (35 species) are available for \$35 from Stan Brown Printers Ltd., Box 366, Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 5P5 (attention Nelson Maher).

The prints are on acid free paper appropriate for framing. Each print is 13" X 20" and only 100 sets are available. □

#### BLACK AND WHITE

On your winter stroll  
you see the black bark  
leaning against white snow.  
These are not the colours  
of autumn, but they too  
are very beautiful.

Giovanni Malito

## PROJECTS

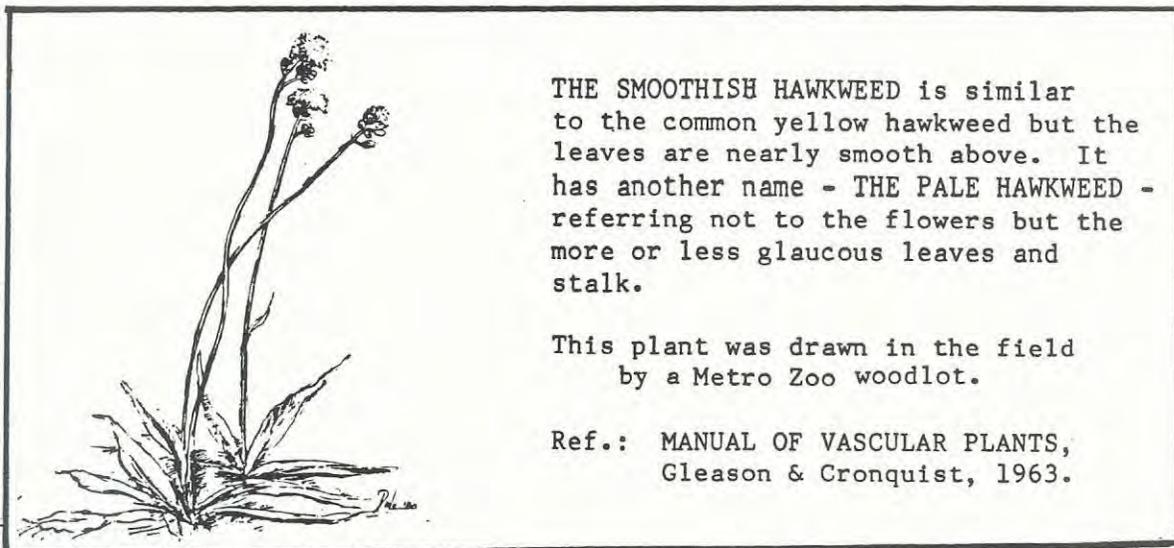
### RESEARCH GRANTS AVAILABLE

The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation aims to support projects conducted by amateurs, projects using data collected by volunteers, and projects generally not eligible for other funding. All projects must be conducted in Canada or on the wintering grounds or migration routes of Canadian birds. Applications may be submitted by individuals or organizations. Graduate research is generally not funded, unless the study involves a core of volunteer work. Individual project grants are usually in the range of \$200 to \$2,000 and average about \$1,000. Grants are made annually, but multi-year support will be considered. The Baillie Fund also has a special 5-year project to help establish a network of migration monitoring stations across Canada. More information about this special project is available from the Secretary. Applications must be submitted on forms available from the Secretary of the Fund and should be received by 31 January 1994. Forms and instructions may be obtained from Mark Staff, Secretary, James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, R.R. 6, Renfrew, Ont. K7V 3Z9 (home 613-432-3387, Fax 649-2772).

### CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Two Conservation Scholarship awards of \$1,000 each are available through the B. Harper Bull Conservation Fellowship Awards Program administered by the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto. The deadline for acceptance of applications is Thursday, March 31, 1994. The scholarships are intended to encourage and assist University and College students residing or studying in the Greater Toronto Region who wish to broaden their knowledge of conservation through study, travel and practical experience. For further information and applications, please contact The Administrative Assistant, The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto, 5 Shoreham Dr., Downsview, Ont. M3N 1S4 or call (416) 661-6600, Ext. 207.

□



## TORONTO WILDLIFE CENTRE

The Toronto Wildlife Centre was formed by a group of volunteers who were concerned about the lack of a wildlife facility in Metro Toronto to properly care for the thousands of sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals being euthanized each year. On March 5th, 1992, the Toronto Wildlife Centre officially became a registered charity whose goals were to educate the public about wildlife-related issues.

The Toronto Wildlife Centre began operating out of volunteers' homes. Volunteers included veterinarians, animal health technicians, biologists, lawyers, accountants, and many other concerned individuals. In December of 1992, the first location for the Centre was found. During the winter, the volunteers busily built large flight cages for the bird room, repaired broken appliances which had been donated to the Centre, painted, laid linoleum, collected supplies, set up all the rooms in preparation for the animals, distributed literature to the public as well as animal controls, vet clinics, humane societies and more! On March 28th, 1993, Toronto Wildlife Centre officially opened its doors to Metro Toronto's wildlife.

And the sick, injured, and orphaned wild creatures flooded in. People brought animals from as far away as Waterloo, North Bay, and Barrie. Wild animals came in because they were hit by cars, poisoned, shot, attacked by cats, caught in string or wire, covered in glue, in contact with hydro wires, orphaned? or affected by drinking polluted water. People brought in everything from naked little baby finches to angry adult loons and from dehydrated, cold chipmunks to glue covered bats. In the first few months, hundreds and hundreds of wild animals have already been brought to us for care. Just in May alone, 203 animals were admitted, most of which were orphaned babies.

In September of 1993, the Centre volunteers began searching for another location for the Centre, already having outgrown the first one. A volunteer will start going into local public schools and giving talks to groups of children about the wildlife that we live with in and around our city. Volunteers are also already hard at work on an urban wildlife paperback manual which will be available to the public to assist them with urban wildlife situations.

The Centre is run on voluntary contributions, so any donations would be very welcome. Also, if anyone has any sick, injured or orphaned wildlife they can call the Centre at 588-7360. Donations of \$20 or more receive a newsletter subscription; donations of \$100 or more entitle the donor to become a voting member of the Centre. Cheques should be made payable to the Toronto Wildlife Centre, 10136 Sheppard Ave. East, Scarborough, Ont. M1B 1E9.

Nathalie Karvonen, & Ann Millett

Comment: For information about other wildlife centres, write to the Ontario Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Network, Box 428, Vineland, Ont. LOR 2C0 or call 416-562-5110. □

Fiery cardinal,  
perched on snowy fence, cusses.  
Cross with old winter?

Haiku by Arthur Wade

THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION OF GREATER TORONTO  
An Investment in Greenspace Action

Dedicated to providing future generations with a livable environment, the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto campaigns for support to ensure that the most populous part of Canada, the Greater Toronto region, has a green future. By working closely with the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, all levels of government, industry, other foundations, environmental groups and individuals, the Conservation Foundation has raised \$7.2 million over its 32-year history.

Recently, the Conservation Foundation has turned its attention toward the Don River. It was obvious that this unique environmental, recreational, cultural and economic resource was badly in need of help. The Foundation began with the rehabilitation of the East Don River Valley in the Charles Sauriol Conservation Reserve. Donors responded enthusiastically, and over a half-million dollars was raised, surpassing the two-year funding objective.

Continuing its work for a better environment for the people of the Greater Toronto region, the Conservation Foundation is currently working on two exciting new projects.

The Conservation Foundation will invest \$1.2 million in the banks of the upper West Don watershed, between Steeles Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive. More than \$650,000 of this investment will come from private sector sources.

The West Don River Greenway Project spans an area covering about 15 km of watercourse. This part of the watershed is badly in need of rehabilitation. The natural vegetation has been removed and the banks are eroding. The work plan includes extensive tree planting on valleylands, bank stabilization, the creation and rehabilitation of wetlands and in-stream habitat. Public access will be encouraged through the development of a Greenway Trail.

The benefits of rehabilitation on the West Don will include better quality water stored and filtered by the rehabilitated wetlands; reduced stream-bank erosion and sedimentation; improved habitat for land and aquatic animals; reforestation; and recreational opportunities through trail development. This project will provide environmental dividends for the entire community -- humans, plants, fish and wildlife.

As part of its 1993 fund raising campaign, the Foundation has also agreed to raise at least \$500,000 from the private sector to begin the Don Valley Brickworks Regeneration Project.

As industry turned the clay of the Don Valley Brickworks site into the buildings which have become Toronto's best loved landmarks (Queen's Park, Massey Hall, Casa Loma), a cavity was opened in the earth which exposed 740 million years of history. This historical file remains in the North Slope of the quarry.

The challenge is to revitalize the area by developing an attractive natural and cultural heritage complex. The rehabilitation can be accomplished by restoring key features of the industrial heritage components and regenerating the quarry. This work will in turn provide safe access to an attractive recreational area for people to enjoy within the urban setting.

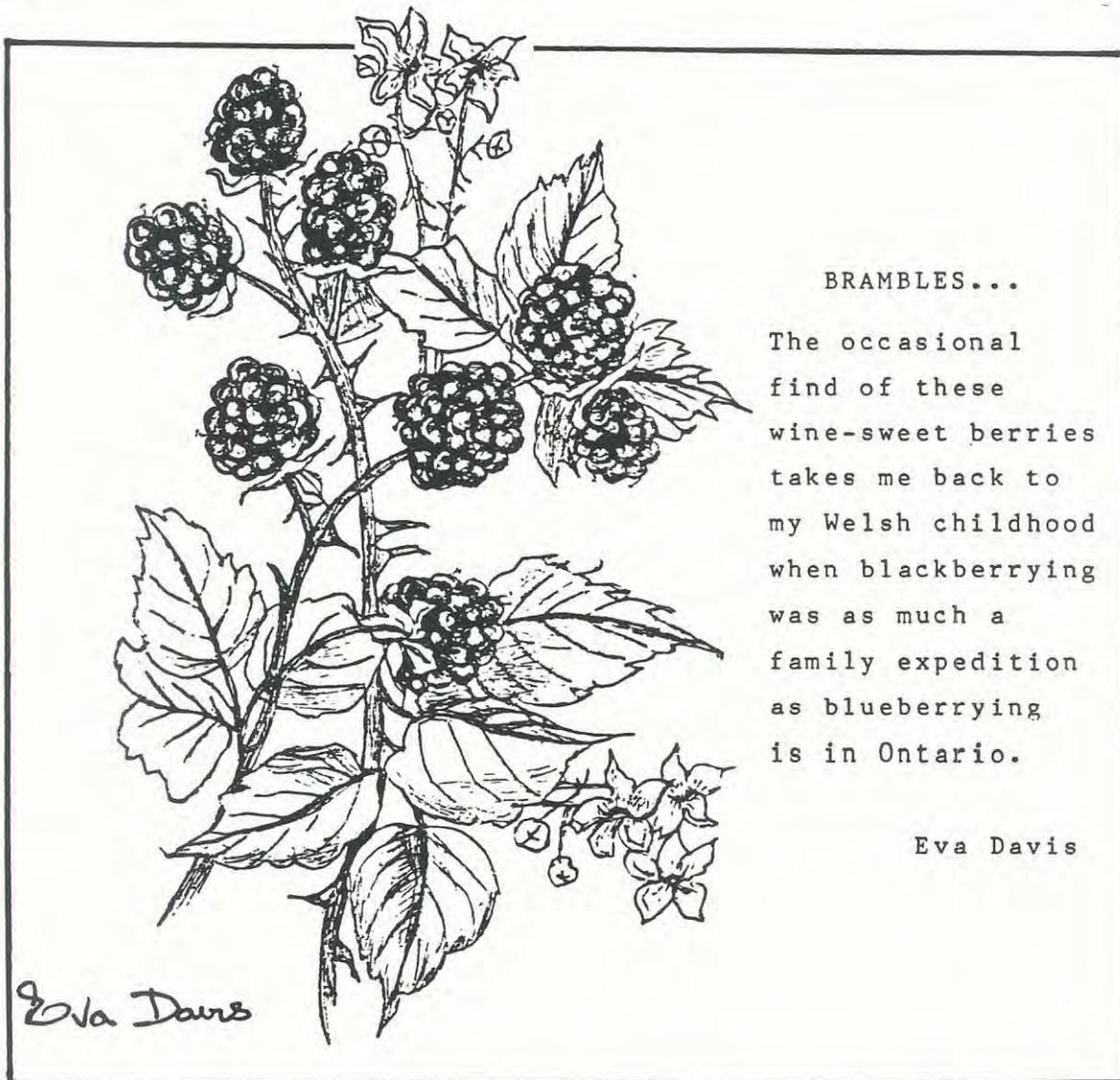
Regeneration of the Brickworks requires a phased approach over several years. Phase 1 will address the most immediate site regeneration and

## CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (cont'd)

and rehabilitation issues and provide steps to preserve the cultural heritage. The resolution of the issues includes stabilization of the North Slope of the quarry to ensure that significant geological elements are not disturbed and are preserved; revitalization of the Mud Creek; restoration of the "Valley" chimney; provision of recreational opportunities (i.e. walking, picnicking); securing of the shell of a number of the heritage buildings; photographic documentation of all buildings and brick-making equipment on site; site cleanup; and pedestrian links with the valley and ravine systems of trails.

If you would like to make a donation or want more information about the West Don Greenway Project, the Don Valley Brickworks Regeneration Project, or the Conservation Foundation, please contact the Foundation Office at (416) 661-6600, Ext. 276, or write to 5 Shoreham Drive, Downsview, Ont. M3N 1S4. (Visa and Mastercard are also welcome.)

□



## THE PROTOTYPE FOR SCHOOLYARD RESTORATION

Henny Markus led a group of TFN members on a tour of the Ossington/Old Orchard wilderness garden, an environmental learning centre, this past summer. Located behind a public school in the Ossington and College area, this urban wilderness offers students a chance to become intimate with nature, and teachers a chance to integrate nature studies into their classrooms.

In 1989 the playground behind Ossington/Old Orchard Public School was almost completely paved with asphalt. At a home and school meeting, two parents, Kim Delaney and Terry McGlade, who are also professional gardeners, presented the idea of restoring this wasteland to its natural state. They talked about the benefits to the curriculum, the improvements to the environment, the involvement of the community and the enhancement of the children's self esteem -- all to be a direct result of plantings in the schoolyard. Parents and staff were very enthusiastic about the plan and for the past four years have been working hard to make the dream a reality.

Each year an area of the site is chosen and a planting is designed. To date we have created an aviary to attract and provide food and shelter for birds, a terraced vegetable garden, an upland forest, a wildflower meadow, an orchard, and grass playing fields. A sense of community has been established as parents, students, staff and neighbours work together to improve the quality of their neighbourhood.

Many curriculum initiatives have been implemented; teachers use the garden to teach nutrition (cooking with produce from their vegetable plot), geography (studying migration paths), math (measuring seed production and plant growth), history (through local historians and an archaeological dig on the site), biology (studying wildlife attracted to the site), verbal and dramatic arts (through poems and plays written about the site) and most of all the visual arts (through visiting artists who harvest the garden to teach about natural dyes, basket weaving, leaf printing and plant paper making).

The garden has become an inspiration for the arts and examples of garden artwork adorn the school library, which houses an impressive collection of books and curricula on environmental education.

Each spring and fall brings community work days during which we plant new trees, shrubs, herbs and wildflowers and perform other garden tasks. This fall the plant material came from the soon to be retired Ecology Park, a grant from Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation, and neighbours' backyards. This site is slowly developing into a little pocket of wilderness in downtown Toronto. The children play in this garden each recess and develop a familiarity with and a sense of responsibility for the plants and a pride in how they have been able to improve the environment.

Karen Krupa

□

<p>Alone in a pine, owl with inquisitive eyes figuring me out.</p>
--

Haiku by J. Kenneth Cook

## SCHOOLYARD RESTORATION READING

Many people have begun thinking about how to make schoolyards more interesting places, places which reflect where they are in relation to the wider natural world (which plants would have grown -- evergreen or deciduous -- where the school is located). Asphalt deserts are out; planting trees is in. It actually isn't that simple. For those wanting to learn more, the following reading list is a beginning:

HABITAT RESTORATION: A GUIDE FOR PROACTIVE SCHOOLS by Edward D. Cheskey, 1993. Waterloo County Board of Education, 51 Ardelt Ave., Box 68, Kitchener, Ont. N2G 3X5. 90 pp. \$25.

WELCOMING BACK THE WILDERNESS. 1993. Prentice Hall, School Division, 1870 Birchmount Rd., Scarborough M1P 2J7. (416) 293-3621.

"Low Maintenance Doesn't Mean no Maintenance" by Larrie Otto in THE OUTSIDE STORY, Sept./Oct. 93, page 3.

"Wild in the Schoolyard" by Don Scallen in WILDFLOWER 7 (1):15-17.

"Schoolyard Natural Restoration Projects" by Don Scallen in WILDFLOWER 10(1).

"Children are Inadvertently Taught Nature is Alien, Dirty" by David Suzuki in WILDFLOWER 4(1):37.

"A School Nature Center" by Emma Ahont in FREMONTIA 14(4):14-15.

SCHOOLYARD NATURALIZATION, a pamphlet published by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (includes hints on planning, funding, planting, maintenance, etc.)

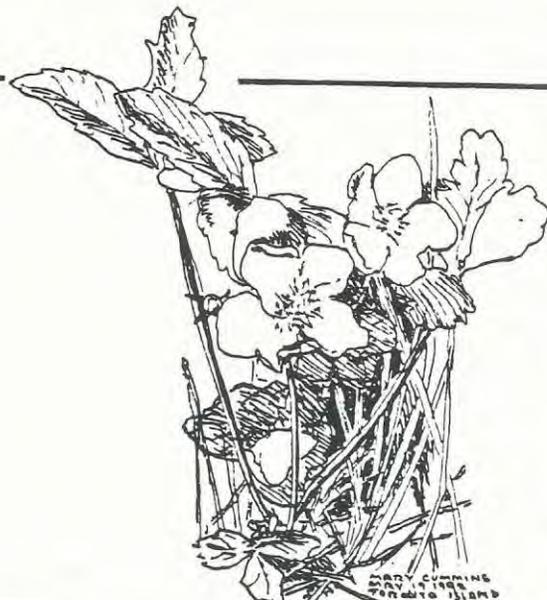
Jim Hodgins

Comments: Any more references out there?

THE FIELD STRAWBERRY  
is native to Toronto -  
some years starting to bloom  
in April but most years in  
May. It has been known to  
continue in bloom as late as  
June 24.

Ref.: Wildflower Records  
of Isabel Smith.

Field drawing by Mary Cumming



## LESSONS FROM THE WILD

Algonquin Park was established one hundred years ago partly in response to widespread concern over the perceived destruction of wildlife in Ontario. But rather than merely protect the wildlife that was already in Algonquin, the first administrators felt that adding more species to the Park would be even better. Indeed, when we look through old annual Park reports we find an astonishing list of non-native fish and wildlife that were deliberately brought to Algonquin and released in an attempt to establish them. Among fish we find the Atlantic Salmon, the Grayling, and the Kokanee Salmon from elsewhere in North America and even the Masu Salmon from Japan! Among "gamebirds" we have the Ring-necked Pheasant (originally from Asia but well-established in agricultural and semi-urban areas of Canada and the U.S.), and from Europe, the Black Grouse and the Capercaillie, the latter being a huge, turkey-sized grouse that was released in Algonquin on a couple of occasions around the turn of the century. Among mammals we find references to "Belgian Hares", and to Wapiti or American Elk that were released at Cache Lake in 1936.

Now, all of these attempts failed but there were a couple of other deliberate introductions that did succeed and the results are still with us today. One was the Cisco or Lake Herring introduced as a forage fish to Smoke Lake and Lake Opeongo in the 1940s with the hope of improving the growth rates of the local Lake Trout. This did happen, in fact, although apparently at the expense of delayed maturity in the already slow-growing Lake Trout.

The effects of our second intentional fish introduction were much more clear cut. Many visitors to Algonquin are surprised to learn that one hundred years ago there were no Smallmouth Bass in the well known lakes along the Parkway Corridor and that they were only introduced there afterwards to provide a fine new game species for Park visitors to catch. In this case, the attempted introduction obviously worked but we also know that "success" was achieved at a price. Most of the lakes along Highway 60 that presently have good bass fishing originally had Brook Trout (also called Speckled Trout) but the trout were completely out-competed and displaced by the introduced bass.

There are two lessons to be learned from the Park's history of deliberate attempts to add to our resident fish and wildlife species. Either the attempts fail relatively quickly, in which case there was no point in trying in the first place, or they succeed but at the expense of distorting the original fish or wildlife community whose preservation is supposedly a park objective.

Unfortunately, deliberate and official introductions of new species are not the only kind made by us humans. Far more serious are the inadvertent introduction of fish to new bodies of water by anglers when they dump the living contents of their minnow pails at the end of a day's fishing. As one example, we could cite the establishment of Rainbow Smelt in North Tea Lake in the northwest corner of the Park sometime in the mid-1980s. Another so-called gain for Algonquin was the Rusty Crayfish, a species native to Ohio and Indiana, discovered in Lake Travers on the east side of Algonquin in 1989. The fisherman who bought a few crayfish on his way up to the park and then threw the ones he had left into Lake Travers before he left the Park probably had no idea of the damage he could -- and may -- have done.

## LESSONS FROM THE WILD (cont'd)

In a similar vein, Northern Pike, originally almost nonexistent in Algonquin, are now well established in Shall and Crotch Lakes just inside the Park's southeast boundary.

Some of Algonquin's wildlife gains have come about through much more subtle events or trends, often occurring well beyond the Park's boundaries. Cowbirds, for example, were originally confined to the western prairies but spread into eastern farm country when the forests were cleared. They are now so common in agricultural southern Ontario that they regularly spill over into tiny patches of open habitat, in otherwise forested country, even in Algonquin Park. Two other western birds have also become part of the Algonquin scene in recent decades, again through human activities occurring outside the Park. Evening Grosbeaks were unknown here before the 1920s and we speculate they they spread this far east as a result of widespread logging and fires that favoured the subsequent growth of such highly preferred Evening Grosbeak food species as Choke Cherry and Pin Cherry. Mallard Ducks are an even more recent arrival in Algonquin and now seem to be replacing the indigenous Black Duck as part of a general eastward march. Once again, this trend was probably started by human land clearing activities that took place far beyond Park boundaries.

Finally, there are still other gains in wildlife made by Algonquin in its first century which, apparently, we humans had nothing to do with at all. The Ring-necked Duck is a case in point because, today, in 1993, it is a reasonably common breeding bird on boggy lakes and slow-moving stretches of river and yet it was unknown so far south and east as the Park until the 1940s. Similarly, there was only one Park record of the Golden-winged Warbler before 1962. Today it is found every year, not commonly, but here and there in some of the Park's larger swamps and in light poplar woods over on the Park's east side.

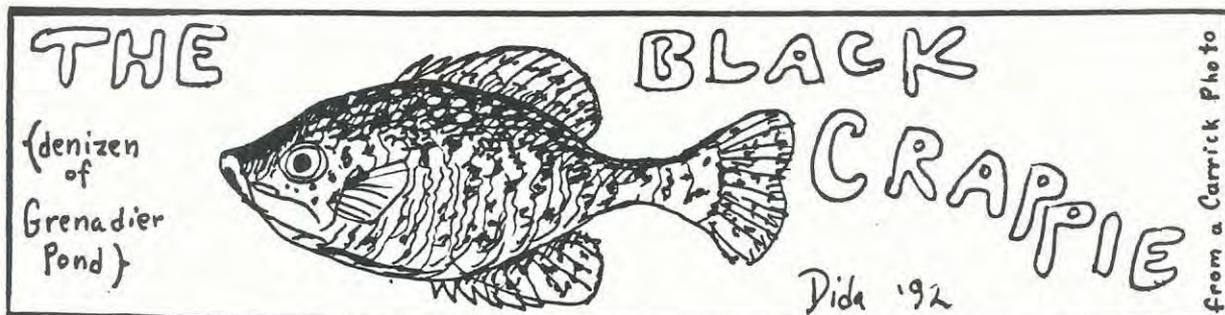
Among plants, full 273 (26%) of the 1,042 species on the Algonquin Park Checklist are not native to the Park. The good news is that almost all of these aliens are restricted to disturbed, non-natural sites like the margin of Highway 60 and that none of them has been able to dominate or perturb the Park's natural communities.

Thus there are many lessons to be learned from both the losses and the gains in wildlife made by Algonquin Park over its first one hundred years.

extracted from THE RAVEN, Vol. 34, No. 10 & Vol. 34, No 11 (Aug. 26 & Sept. 2, 1993)

- the Algonquin Provincial Park Visitors' Newsletter

□



## EXCLUSIVE BIRD FEEDER

Irene Johnston likes goldfinches. In the summer of 1993, she discovered two methods of attracting them to her garden and would like TFN members to know how she did it.

One method was to grow cosmos flowers, which start to form seed in late summer when goldfinches, who nest later than other birds, are still raising their young, to whom, she found, they love to feed immature cosmos seeds.

The cosmos, a common garden annual which likes sunny, dry locations is easily started from seed and will then reseed itself in future years. They grow to a height of six feet every year in Irene's garden. There are other, shorter species of cosmos and, in 1993, the goldfinches also liked her zinnias.

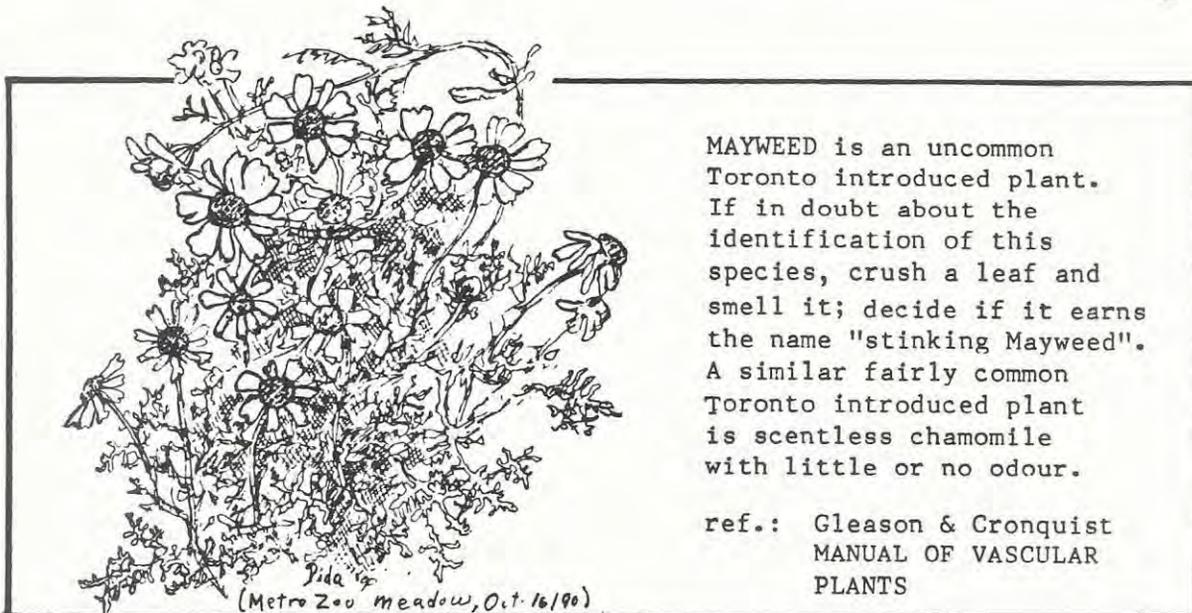
The other method was to use a specially-designed bird feeder. The more aggressive house finches and mourning doves did not allow the goldfinches access to conventional feeders and, being sloppy eaters, they also scattered expensive niger seeds on the ground which sprouted and became thistles that had to be weeded.

The special feeder, a hanging, cylindrical type with no seedcatcher tray at the base, requires the birds to hang upside down from the perches to get at the seeds. The chickadees adapted immediately; the goldfinches took about a week to learn and then quickly taught their children. The house finches just fell off when they tried to hang upside down from the perches and gave up. The mourning doves did not even try.

She got the feeder for about \$17 from the Wild Birds Nature Shop, 5468 Dundas St. West in Etobicoke (tel: 233-3558).

Irene Johnston  
(as told to Alexander Cappell)

□



MAYWEED is an uncommon Toronto introduced plant. If in doubt about the identification of this species, crush a leaf and smell it; decide if it earns the name "stinking Mayweed". A similar fairly common Toronto introduced plant is scentless chamomile with little or no odour.

ref.: Gleason & Cronquist  
MANUAL OF VASCULAR  
PLANTS

## IN THE NEWS

### MUSEUM CHANGES MEAN LAYOFFS FOR 41

The Canadian Museum of Nature [in Ottawa] is laying off 41 employees in a controversial restructuring that will change the way research is done at the Ottawa institution. Under the plan, specific areas of research like plants, birds or mammals will be replaced by six interdisciplinary themes: biodiversity, polar studies, inter-American studies, planetary evolution, humans and nature, and science and society. In the past scientists at the museum could pursue specific interests. Now, management will increasingly set the priorities in research with a view to visitors' needs and a strong emphasis on environmental issues. The main motivation for the plan, which will allow the museum to channel \$2.5-million from salaries and benefits into public programming and research as of 1994-95, is financial. The museum currently receives the bulk of its \$22-million budget in the form of an annual \$18.2-million grant from the federal government, but that grant has fallen by \$3-million over the past five years.

extracted from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, July 28, 1993 (by Kate Taylor)

Comment: After a visit to the Museum of Nature in Ottawa in July, Louise Herzberg, TFN member, wrote a letter to Alan Emery and the Board of Trustees, Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443, Stn. D, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 6P4. Part of it follows: "...The McDonalds insignia, emblazoned on the dinosaur on the parking lot gate, should have warned me that I was not entering the proud museum of old...I was entering a museum which was:

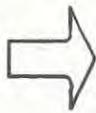
- reduced to the status of an elementary school
- used piped-in music to accompany an exhibition on butterfly-wing photography (as if natural beauty could not impress by itself)
- avoided using common subject titles, like entomology (see "things that bite us"), as if such terms would stick in the general public's throat
- stationed a snack food area half way up its main, central stairs close to its galleries
- used cartoon characters indicating the entrance to a gallery ("things that bite us")...

In short, I found a museum which downplays knowledge and intellectual stimulation. Coincidentally with our visit to your museum, the Globe and Mail ran an article about your staff cuts. I feel sorry for your scientists who must struggle to do research under interdisciplinary themes like "science and society" and "humans and nature" -- themes which most fittingly apply to elementary school curricula. It is through researchers, enthusiastically pursuing their chosen discipline and eagerly communicating their knowledge to children and the public at large, that education takes place. If you start on this basis, your museum will be a very different place and it will hum with activity and excitement..."

The following is an excerpt from Dr. Emery's reply:

"...I believe children are the key to our future. The attitudes and behaviour of adults is already largely fixed. Communicating with children at their level of understanding and competence therefore becomes paramount. Children demand something interesting and stimulating. Children relate to MacDonaldis [sic], cartoons, and fun. If information is packaged as fun, the children learn without it being a painful exercise. We are building our newest exhibits featuring living creatures and with activities to engage the visitor in a real-life, hands-on experience with nature. We have interpreters in the exhibits, but their job is primarily to

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)



assist children -- our primary audience..."

Members with views on this important subject are encouraged to send them to:  
The Prime Minister of Canada, Langevin Block, 80 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6  
with copies to the Minister of Communications, House of Commons, Room 314, West  
Block, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6 and to Dr. Stan van Zyll de Jong, Staff Representative,  
Prof. Inst. Pub. Ser. Can., Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443, Station D,  
Ottawa, Ont. K1P 6P4.

**NY INDUSTRIAL FIRM CONVERTING WOODED LOT INTO PARKING AREA**

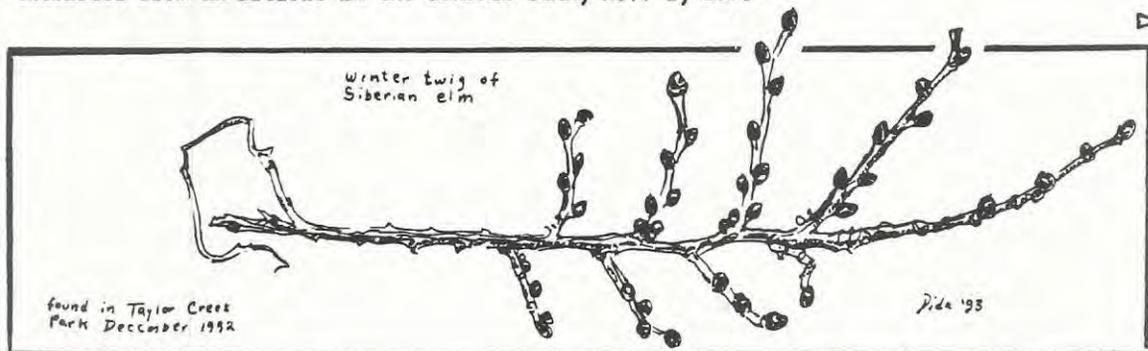
North York will be leasing about a third of an acre of its parkland to a west-end industrial firm that wants to convert part of the wooded lot to parking. Council approved the plan to lease the .32 acres of parkland on Eddystone Avenue to Shade-o-Matic Inc. Under the terms approved by council, the window-blinds manufacturer will pay a total of \$30,000 up front to fund parks improvements and tree plantings, and \$7,000 per year in rent. But for the first five years, the company won't pay any rent on the property. The city's economic development department estimates the property is worth \$275,000 per acre. Council went ahead with the decision despite a report from the city's parks and recreation department recommending against the lease because it would effectively mean the permanent loss of green space in the city's west-end.

extracted from an article by David ~~Nickle~~ in the NORTH YORK MIRROR, Oct.30-31, 1993

**WHAT DO BIRDS WANT?**

Bird lovers around North America will have a chance to participate this winter in what could turn out to be one of the largest research projects ever conducted. The purpose of the project is to find out what kinds of seeds birds like best. The Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology hopes to enlist at least 10,000 volunteers around the United States and Canada. Each volunteer, on at least one day between now and April 30, will set out three batches of seed on three identical pieces of cardboard and observe which birds eat what. To participate, write: NSE/SPT, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithica, N.Y. 14850 or call 1-800-843-BIRD. There is a charge of \$7 (U.S.) for a kit of instructions, which also includes a full-colour bird identification poster and a year's subscription to BIRDSCOPE, a quarterly newsletter.

extracted from an article in the TORONTO STAR, Nov. 1, 1993



## IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

## TATSHENSHINI A GREEN WIN ON A GRAND CANYON SCALE

Landscape artist Leonard Gerbrandt didn't really expect to stop development of a giant copper mine with his paintbrushes and watercolours. Like many environmentalists who have been crusading to protect the Tatshenshini River in the northwestern corner of British Columbia, he just wanted to do his bit to raise public awareness. When he heard that a Vancouver mining company proposed an open-pit mine on one of the B.C. mountains through which the river runs its wild course, Gerbrandt set to work on his "save the Tatshenshini" exhibition. Six months later, his show of 57 paintings went on temporary display at an Ottawa art gallery. Then to his astonishment, the B.C. provincial government announced it was rejecting the mine's proposed project and would protect "the last wild river in the world" in perpetuity. A delighted Gerbrandt carried on with his show, which became a celebration. Environmentalists say it's the first time in Canadian history that a megaproject has been stopped for purely environmental reasons. Most Canadians still don't realize the significance of the Tatshenshini decision. The Tatshenshini ranks with the Grand Canyon. Because the new park is adjacent to national parks in the United States and Canada, it will create a protected area the size of New Brunswick. Unfortunately for B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt, the announcement of the Tatshenshini park was overshadowed by continuing protests over logging in Clayoquot Sound. Gerbrandt, however, has written Harcourt a letter thanking him for the wilderness gift. He says politicians get a lot of negative feedback, but he thinks it's good for them to get positive feedback too.

extracted from an article by Dennis Bueckert in THE TORONTO STAR, Sept. 18, 1993

## WHEN DUMPS ARE ACCEPTABLE

Corporate defence helped spread the popularity of what is called life-cycle analysis. Companies look at the environmental effects of their product at every stage, from raw-material extraction through production, distribution and disposal. The results of life-cycle analysis are often surprising. Companies are now using life-cycle analysis for three main reasons: to back up the claims they make in green advertising; to fend off unwanted regulatory pressures; and to look for ways to reduce the polluting impact of their products and production processes. The results of life-cycle analysis depend on the initial assumptions. For example, over what distance are products transported? Recycling measures might be appropriate in compact countries such as Denmark and Switzerland but wasteful in the United States. How many times will a bottle be reused? If the answer is 10 times, then cartons may be the best bet. If bottles are reused 100 times, the equation changes. And how do you compare two different kinds of environmental impact? Should you care more, say, about air pollution or water pollution? About CFCs or global warming? Life-cycle analysis has few answers.

extracted from an article in the GLOBE & MAIL, Oct. 11, 1993



LETTERS COUNT! Write now! Members disagreeing with North York's decision to turn parkland into parking lots, please write to North York Council at 5100 Yonge St., North York, Ont. M2N 5V7. (See news item on page 22.)



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

#### ICE AGE MAY BE NEAR...OR FAR

The next ice age or a period of intense global warming may be just around the corner, or it could be 100,000 years away according to a University of Victoria professor, Andrew Weaver, an expert on the effect of oceans on climate change. The findings of a project that analysed the full depth of the Greenland ice sheet have far-reaching implications. Until 8,000-10,000 years ago the earth's climate fluctuated frequently and often within a 10- to 15-year span. The findings mean the unusual period of stability during the last 10,000 years is probably the only time in which human civilization could have developed.

extracted from "Science Briefs" in the LONDON FREE PRESS, July 24, 1993

#### BEAUTIFUL CLOUDS MAY CARRY DARK MESSAGE

Noctilucent - or night-luminous - clouds were first spotted 100 years ago in the night skies of industrialized Europe. Since then the range and frequency of these high-altitude vapors have steadily increased, leading many scientists to suspect they may be connected with emission of the so-called greenhouse gases. In Canada, noctilucent clouds (NLC) are commonly seen in places such as Yellowknife, Churchill or Edmonton, but they can be spotted as far south as Calgary and Kenora. These clouds form 85 km above the surface, making them the highest clouds on Earth. After dusk, when the sun has dipped far below the horizon leaving everything else in darkness, sunlight is still shining brightly on these high altitude clouds. This gives them an eerie incandescent glow against the otherwise dark night sky. They are mostly seen during the hottest months of the year -- July and August in the northern hemisphere. According to University of Western Ontario's Space and Atmospheric Research Group, noctilucent clouds may be a sign of just how much damage man has done to the life-sustaining protective bubble around Earth.

extracted from "The Science Report" by Michael O'Reilly in the LONDON FREE PRESS, Oct. 2, 1993

#### EAST POINT PARKS SPORTS FACILITY GETS APPROVAL

Last week at the Management Committee of Metro Toronto Council the construction of the East Point Park Regional Sports Field Facility was approved by the committee. The Parks and Property Department has already put out tenders for this project and the tender of Vicon-Contracting Inc. at \$3,157,570 has been accepted by the department. This project was approved by Metro Council on Sept. 26, 1990 subject to endorsement of the facility by the City of Scarborough and approval of the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Those conditions of approval were satisfied in the fall of 1990 and detailed design work for the project commenced. In June 1991 four people asked the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to designate this project under the Environment Assessment Act. The Ministry put the project on hold but in May 1993 the Minister of Environment and Energy declared that the assessment was unnecessary. Scarborough gave a building permit for the facility in October 1993. Meiro Councillor Ken Morrish spoke strongly in favour of this project.

extracted from an article in the WEST HILL NEWS, Oct. 27, 1993

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IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

#### PARK IN 'HIBERNATION' DURING STREETCAR PROJECT

Ecology Park -- a tiny, chemical-free plot of land near Bloor St. and Spadina Ave. that was the first of its kind in Canada -- is about to be transplanted, one plant at a time. It's being displaced by Toronto Transit Commission traffic during construction of the Spadina streetcar line. Staff members at the adjoining Pollution Probe office on Madison Ave. hope the park can be restored to its original form once construction ends. Just steps north of busy Bloor, the miniature park is home to assorted birds and butterflies among 125 species of indigenous plants, grasses, herbs and perennials, along with 150 small trees and bushes. The park sprouted about eight years ago as a Probe project but dwindling funds left it in the hands of neighbourhood volunteers. The property is owned by Metro but is too small for the parks department to operate. Metro recently agreed to turn the property over to the city. City officials have tentatively agreed to take responsibility for the park but details must still be worked out.

extracted from an article by Brian McAndrew in the TORONTO STAR, Oct. 18, 1993

#### BIODIVERSITY TREATY TAKES EFFECT DEC. 29

An international treaty designed to safeguard the diversity of life forms on Earth will take effect Dec. 29. The Biodiversity Convention aimed at protecting plant and animal species in danger of extinction, was signed at the June, 1992, Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It requires countries to make an inventory of plants and wildlife within their borders and draft plans to protect those that are endangered. Canada was the first industrialized western country to ratify the convention. The Earth has an estimated 10 million species of which only 1.5 million have been identified, according to the United Nations.

extracted from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Oct. 16, 1993

#### MOUNTAIN BIKING...

To the dismay of some parks officials and conservationists, mountain bikes can have quite a negative impact on park terrain. So for safety and conservation's sake mountain bikers are being directed to seek out designated mountain bike trails. One new facility exists at the Hardwood Hills Cross Country Ski Centre, just off Highway 400, in between Barrie and Orillia. Other areas where off-road riding is allowed include: the Ganaraska Forest, Kelso Conservation Area, Dufferin County Forest, Hilton Falls Conservation Area, Scanlon Creek and the Horseshoe Resort, north of Barrie. Some have a moderate trail fee, others are free.

extracted from an article by Garry Wice in the TORONTO STAR, June 13, 1993

 **LETTERS COUNT!** Write now! You are urged to write your Metro Councillor at Metro Hall, 55 John St., Toronto, Ont. M5V 3C6 to express your outrage at the frivolous expenditure of \$3½ million of public funds in today's economic climate. (See news item on page 24.)

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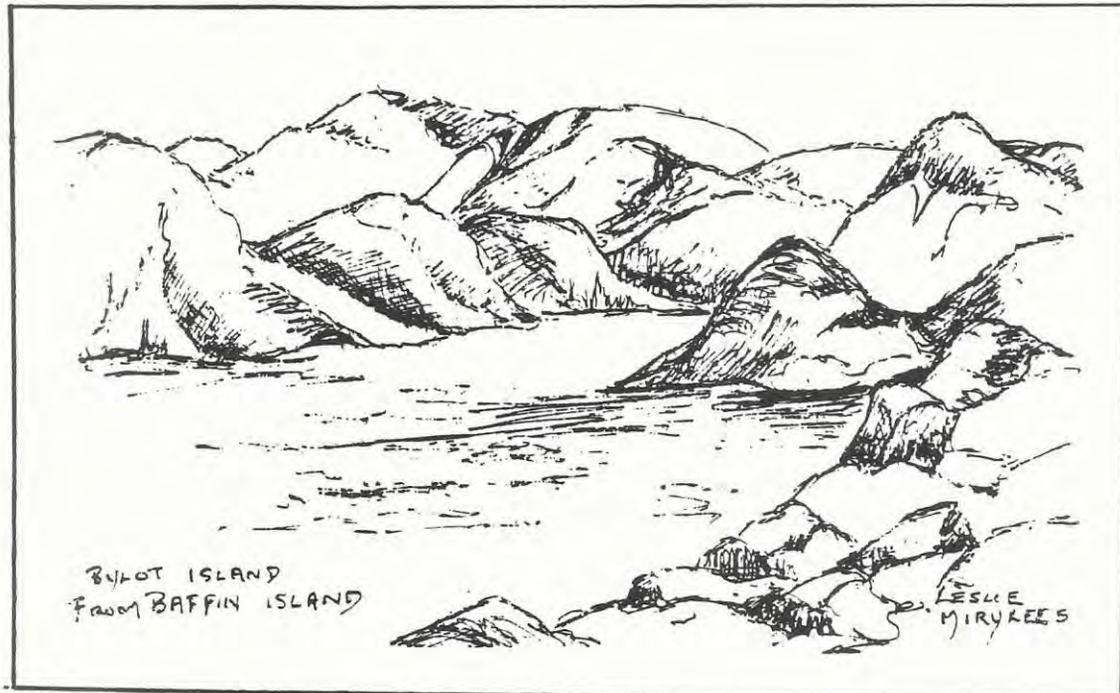
## THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

December 1992, Toronto

The month was mild but punctuated by an enormous snow storm which came on Dec. 10th-11th. The month in summary was unspectacular, with much of the cloudy, mild weather so familiar to Torontonians. The average temperature was about two degrees above normal and sunshine hours at 59.4 totalled the lowest since 1986, concluding one of the cloudiest years on record. Winds were slightly lighter than normal, continuing a general pattern that has held in the Toronto area for many months. Rainfall was below normal, snowfall slightly above, and total precipitation near normal.

The event of the month was the snowfall on Dec. 10th-11th, which contributed 30-40 cm of snow downtown and slightly lower amounts away from the lake. It was the heaviest single event since February 27th-29th, 1984 at the official weather station downtown, but at some localities in southern Ontario and the northeastern United States, records were broken. The heavy wet snow weighed down power lines and tree branches. Many trees in fact were felled, and broken branches littered some ravine areas for months before they were gathered up.

The snow did not last; mild weather later in the month melted all of it. By Christmas Day, there were only patches left and a light dusting, and the new year saw bare ground.



Toronto has Centre Island to the south and Bylot Island to the north... a long, long way north, over three thousand kilometres, but Leslie Mirylees was on hand to make the above drawing. According to THE ATLAS OF CANADA AND THE WORLD, one of Bylot's mountains has an altitude of 2,134 metres.

## WEATHER (cont'd)

January 1993, Toronto

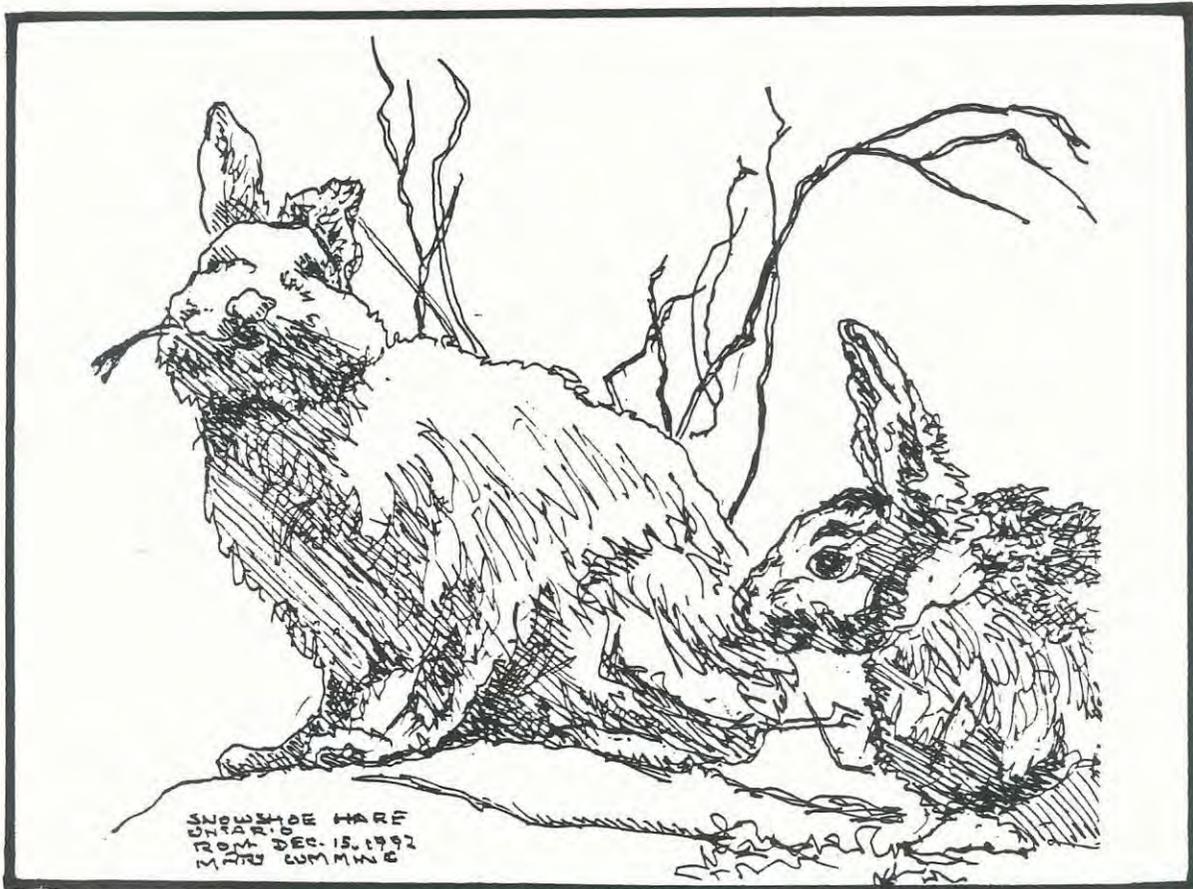
The month was not unusual; it was milder than the 30-year average -- as has been every January since 1986; slightly cloudy, and fairly wet (the highest total precipitation downtown since 1979, and since 1985 at Pearson). The snowfall downtown of 37.8 cm, well-distributed throughout the month, was only about 2 cm above the average, but it was the most for January since 1987 and, following December with its one big storm, gave the impression of a somewhat snowy winter.

The month opened with a warm front moving in, bringing rains and temperatures as high as 12°C. This tropical air was quickly pushed aside, but no really cold weather came later this month. It wasn't as warm as January of 1989 or 1990, but the coldest it got all month downtown was -12.5°C, and at Pearson Airport, -15.5°C. At Pearson, this is the highest monthly minimum recorded.

The holding pattern of relatively light winds continued.

Gavin Miller

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## COMING EVENTS

69th Toronto Christmas Bird Count - Sunday, Dec. 26. Competent birders (no beginners) please, call the compiler, Alfred Adamo at 905-238-5166. The count is sponsored by the Toronto Ornithological Club. Each participant is required to pay a nominal sum (about \$5), so that the census results can be published in AMERICAN BIRDS.

Toronto Entomologists' Association - no December meeting, but Jan. 22 at 1:00 pm in the McLaughlin Planetarium will be a round-table on insect photography. For more information, call Phil Schappert at 905-832-6206.

Black Creek Project - (no December meeting) - Wed. Jan. 5 at 6:30 pm in the Haultain Bldg. on College St. opposite McCaul St. Call 661-6600, ext. 345 for more information.

Save the Rouge Valley System - monthly nature walk. Call 287-1776 for more information.

Flirting with Oblivion - an illustrated lecture by Moira Brown - Friday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 pm at Hart House Theatre (University of Toronto) - a Zoocheck Canada Lecture. Tickets are \$10 each and are available from Zoocheck Canada, 5334 Yonge St., Suite 1830, Toronto M2N 6M2 or by calling 696-0241 or 978-8668 or from the Hart House Theatre Box Office.

Don Valley Task Force Public Workshops - presentation of tributary characteristics, restoration opportunities and issues; input from participants on resource inventory interests and priorities; introduction of concept site

- Taylor Creek - Thursday, Nov. 18 from 7 to 9:30 at Parkside Public School, 41 Cedarvale Ave.
- Upper East Don - Monday, Nov. 22 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm at City of Vaughan Municipal Offices, 2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.
- Upper West Don - Tuesday, Nov. 23 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm at Vellore School, 9541 Weston Rd., Maple
- German Mills Creek - Wednesday, Nov. 24 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm at Richmond Hill Municipal Bldg., 225 East Beaver Creek Rd., Richmond Hill
- Lower West Don - Monday, Nov. 29 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm at the Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Rd., Don Mills
- Lower East Don - Tuesday, Nov. 30 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm at the North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St., North York
- Lower Don River - ~~Tues.~~ Dec. 7 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm at Leaside Collegiate, 200 Hanna Rd., East York

GET INVOLVED. Call 661-6600, extension 263 to let the organizers know you will be attending.

Old Growth Forests - public meeting - Tuesday, Nov. 30 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm at 955 Lakeshore Blvd. West (Ontario Place Pod #1 - adjacent to Trillium Restaurant - enter through west entrance).

Winter Waterfowl Count - sponsored by the Toronto Ornithological Club. Call 485-9083 to offer your "expert" help.

## COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

Don Valley Task Force Public Workshops (#2) - presentation of Draft management plans; discussion of plan elements and tributary priorities

- Lower East Don - Mon. Jan. 17, 1994
- Lower West Don - Wed. Jan. 19
- Taylor Creek - Thurs. Jan. 20
- Upper West Don - Mon. Jan. 24
- Upper East Don - Tues. Jan. 25
- German Mills - Wed. Jan. 26
- Lower Don - Thurs. Jan. 27

GET INVOLVED. Call 661-6600, extension 263 for location and time and express your interest. A third series of public meetings will be held in February.

Toronto Ornithological Club - free outing to look at birds - Gulls and Waterfowl - Sat. Jan. 29 at 2 pm until dusk. Meet at the southwest corner of Grenadier Pond (Ellis Ave. and the Queensway) to walk to Sunnyside. Leader: to be announced.

Mycological Society of Toronto - (no December meeting) - next meeting - Mon. Jan. 17 at 8 pm at the Civic Garden Centre (Leslie St. and Lawrence Ave. East). For more information call 444-9053.

Friends of the Don East York - (no December meeting) - next meeting - Tues. Jan. 25 at 7 pm at the East York Field Centre at Cedarvale Ave. Dennis Hitchmough will be speaking. Call 690-5925 for details.

Royal Canadian Institute - free science lectures - 1994 season begins in late January. For details, call 928-2096.

The Wild Bird and Nature Show (2nd annual) - Sat. Nov. 20 from 10 am to 8 pm and Sun. Nov. 21 from 10 am to 5 pm - at Skyway Trade and Conference Centre, 67 Skyway Ave. (Hwy. 27 & Dixon Rd.). Admission \$6 each or \$3 with TFN membership card. Backyard birding needs, nature travel information, photography - spotting equipment, birding and nature organizations, clothes, books, magazines, etc. seminars, prizes etc.

Don Valley Task Force meeting - Dec. 2 at 2141 Major Mackenzie Dr. Open to the public. For more details, call 661-660, ex. 325.

Task Force to Bring Back the Don - (no Dec. meeting, but see public workshops of Don Valley Task Force). For January meeting, call 392-0068.

Winter Birdfeeding - at Kortright Centre - Dec. 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19 at 2:30 pm - guided tour along birdfeeder trail. Admission charge.

Mindwalk, a feature film dealing with the environment and other threats to the world today will open at the new Metropolitan Cinema at 394 Euclid St. (College and Euclid) on Nov. 26. Cost: adults, \$7; students, \$4. For more details, call 538-8611 or 203-2171.



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30 FAMILY (2 adults - same address, children included)  
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